

Serial No. 10/672,083
60130-1896; 02MRA0122

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to change "reference distribution" to "reference histogram." Claim 14 has been amended to recite that the step of integrating occurs over a period that depends on a level of the ambient brightness detected.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boiucaner (US 5,142,152). Claims 2, 8, 9, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boiucaner. Claims 1, 10 and 12 have been amended to recite a light sensor having a plurality of imaging elements and a circuit that analyzes a distribution of light received by the light sensor, wherein the distribution of light defines a histogram of gray levels of the plurality of imaging elements, the circuit compares the histogram of the gray levels of the distribution of the light received by the sensor to a reference histogram, and the circuit updates the reference histogram. The Examiner states on page 6 of the office action that the prior art does not teach or reasonably suggest a light sensor including a plurality of imaging elements and a distribution of light that defines a histogram of gray levels of the plurality of imaging elements as recited in claim 3. This features of claim 3 has been added to claims 1, 10 and 12. The claims are not anticipated or obvious.

Thus, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12 and 14-20 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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